ISTITUTION

—AND—

BY-LAWS

—OF THE—

Montreal Pioneer Freethought CLUB.

Founded at Montreal,

OCTOBER 1880.

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CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

The Club shall be called *The Montreal Pioneer Freethought Club.*

ARTICLE II.

OBJECT.

The object of the Club shall be:

To facilitate the association of those who have at heart and hold dear that absolute freedom of thought and expression, which is the natural right of every rational being, to encourage the study of man in all his relations, and to seek to realize the truth in life, and so to aid in those movements that tend most to the improvement of the individual and of society, and to the unity and freedom of mankind.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

Any person whose moral, social, and intellectual standing is proof that he or she will further the objects of the club and preserve the necessary unity of opinion with regard to them as expressed in ART. II, shall be eligible for membership.

ARTICLE IV.

OFFICERS.

The Officers of the club shall be a President, three Vice-Presidents, Recording and Financial Secretaries, a Treasurer, a Librarian and seven Directors, who together shall form a general committee of management. The officers shall be elected by ballot annually and shall hold office for one year or until such time as their successors shall have been elected.

ARTICLE V.

MEETINGS.

The club shall meet weekly at their rooms for the promotion of its objects. The first meeting in each month shall be devoted to the transaction of all regular business. Extraordinary or urgent business may be

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transacted at any weekly meeting, when considered absolutely necessary, by a three quarter majority of those present.

ARTICLE VI.

FEES AND DUES.

Each member on joining shall pay an admission fee and also monthly dues of such amounts as may be provided for in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII.

FUNDS.

The funds of the club shall be duly deposited in one of our banks in the name of the President and Treasurer and expended only for the objects of the club as provided in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII.

AMENDMENTS.

The foregoing constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of any meeting, but notice of motion for such amendment must be given at least four weeks previous to the discussion of same, of which notice the Secretary shall duly inform every member.

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ARTICLE I.

MEMBERSHIP.

(*a*) A proposition for membership shall only be eceived at the hand of a member, and shall be referred o a committee on Character, to be appointed by the hair.

(*b*) The committee on Character shall report on he proposition at the ensuing regular meeting and if he report be favourable, a vote shall be taken and if wo-thirds of the members are in favour, the candidate hall be declared elected by the chairman.

(*c*) No proposition for membership on behalf of rejected candidate shall be entertained within one ear from date of rejection.

(*d*) The proposer shall have the right to withdraw is proposition before the vote is taken.

(*e*) An elected member shall be introduced and ecome qualified to vote immediately after having igned the Constitution and By-Laws and after the payment of his initiation fee.

(*f*) The election of a member is to be considere void if he or she fail to sign the Constitution and B laws, and to pay the joining fee within three month after such election, unless an excuse deemed reasonabl by the club can be offered for such neglect.

ARTICLE II.

MEETINGS.

(*a*) Meetings shall be held every Sunday afternoo commencing at three o'clock at the Club-rooms, th first meeting in each month to be the regular busines meeting; for the rest of the month a programme sha be arranged by the Directors and communicated to th members.

ARTICLE III.

OFFICERS.

(*a*) The election of officers shall take place an nually at the first meeting in December after previou nomination at the last meeting in November, such elec tion to be by ballot, except in case only one membe be nominated when he or she shall be declared electe by acclamation.

(*b*) In case of a vacancy in any office occuring o account of resignation, death, or neglect of duty, (absenc

ithout reasonable excuse, from six consecutive mee-ngs, constituting such neglect,) it shall be imme-iately filled by election.

(*c*) The ballots are to be counted by two scrutineers ppointed by the Chair; a majority of all votes cast is ecessary for an election.

ARTICLE IV.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

(*a*) The duty of the President is to preside at each egular meeting unless prevented by urgent outside uties, and to govern the same by impartial parliamen-ary ruling. At the end of his official year he shall resent a retrospective report of the same.

(*b*) One of the Vice-Presidents shall assume the uties of the President in his absence.

(*c*) The Recording-Secretary shall keep the minutes f the meetings and attend to all the correspondence of he club.

(*d*) The Financial-Secretary shall keep correct ccounts with members, collect their dues and fees and and all money received over to the Treasurer against he Treasurer's receipt.

(*e*) The Treasurer shall receive all moneys and eposit same as provided for in the Constitution and

expend money for such ordinary purposes only as ma be voted by the Club by a two-thirds vote of those pre sent at any regular meeting. Should any extraordinar expenditure be deemed advisable, the same can only b voted after due notification of such intention sent b the Secretary to all members.

(*f*) A temporary chairman may be elected at an meeting excepting at the regular monthly busines meeting.

ARTICLE V.

DUES.

(*a*) Each joining member shall pay an admissio fee of One Dollar.

(*b*) Twenty-five cents shall be paid monthly b each member in advance, excepting wives of member who shall be entitled to the privileges of membershi without charge

ARTICLE VI.

DONATIONS.

Donations in support of the Club or the cause ma be received from members and non-members.

ARTICLE VII.

QUORUM.

Seven members, two of whom shall be officers, rm a legal quorum at any regular r eeting.

ARTICLE VIII.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.

The Club may elect any prominent or distinguished omoter of its objects as an honorary member by a animous vote of those present at any regular business eeting.

ARTICLE IX.

EXPULSION.

A member may be expelled on proposal of any mber by a two thirds vote of those present after two eks personal notification.

ARTICLE X.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

(*a*) Reading of minutes.
(*b*) Reading of notices and correspondence.
(*c*) Reports from Committee.
(*d*) Receiving of propositions for membership.

(*e*) Voting on propositions submitted with rep
of Committee.

(*f*) General business.

ARTICLE XI.

SUSPENSION OR AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS.

(*a*) Any By-Law may be suspended at any meet
by a two thirds vote.

(*b*) These By-Laws may be suspended at any m
ing after two weeks notice of amendments proposed.

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Rules for the Library.

1. The Library shall be in charge of the Librarian
er the control of the Board of Directors, and shall
pen for the delivery and return of books one hour
ious to and after the regular weekly meeting of the
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2. No member shall be allowed to have more than
volume at a time, and the Librarian shall enter in
ok kept for the purpose the number and title of
volume delivered by him, the name of the member
the date of the delivery, and shall also enter the
when such volume is returned. Three weeks shall
he limit of time allowed for reading each volume,
any member failing to return a book after this time
be fined for each week of its detention the sum of
cents, and shall not be allowed the use of the Li-
y until such fine be paid. Any member who may
have finished the perusal of any volume within the
ified time may retain the same for one week longer
otifying the Librarian, provided that no other mem-
has applied for the book.

3. If any member lose or injure a book, he or she
l replace the same, or if unable to do so, pay the
e thereof, and if the book belong to a set, shall re-
e the set or pay the value thereof.

4. The Librarian shall call in all books two wee previous to the annual meeting. They shall be careful examined and checked by a committee of three appoint by the President for that purpose. The Librarian sh make an Annual Report stating the circulation, t general condition of the Books, number missing if a amount of fines received, etc, during the year.

5. The privileges of the Library shall be grant to no member in arrears; and the Financial Secreta shall make monthly a list of all members not in arrea for the guidance of the Librarian who shall deliv books only to those whose names appear on it. Such l may be supplemented any time during the month.

6. The privileges of the Library may, by the A proval of the Board of Directors, and for an annu subscription of three Dollars payable in advance, granted to those who may not wish to identify themselv with the objects of the Club.

7. Subscribers to the funds of the Library, to t amount of not less than twenty-five Dollars, shall considered as honorary members of the Library a entitled to all its privileges.

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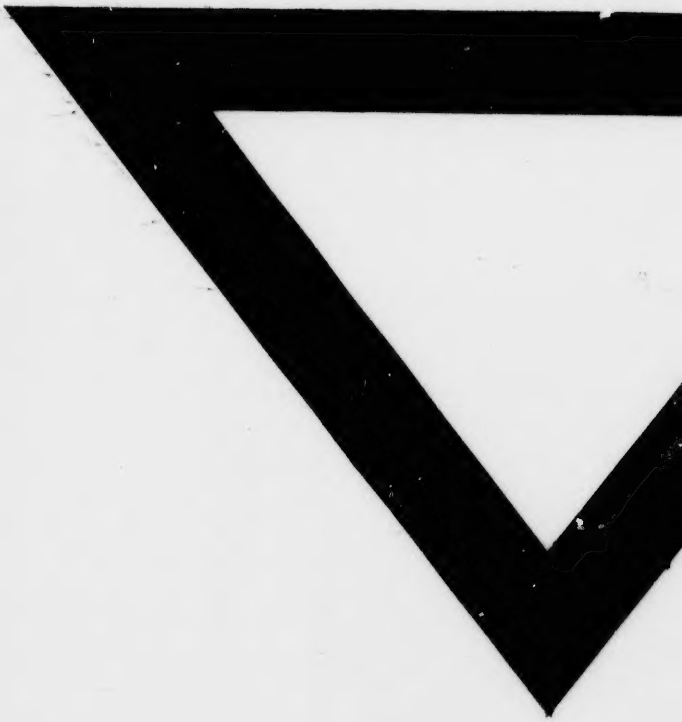
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